



SIDNEY L. STRICKLAND, JR.  
Associate General Counsel

BNSF Railway Company  
700 13<sup>th</sup> Street NW, Suite 220  
Washington, DC 20005-5915

Telephone: 202-347-8667  
Fax: 202-347-8675  
E-mail: Sidney.Strickland@BNSF.com

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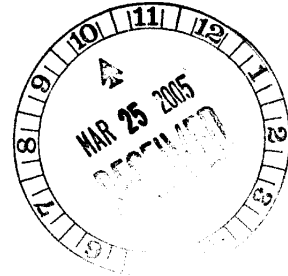
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**VIA UPS OVERNIGHT MAIL**

March 24, 2005

Honorable Vernon A. Williams, Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
1925 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20423-0001



**Re: Surface Transportation Board Docket No. AB-6 (Sub-No. 406X); BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") Abandonment in South Hutchinson, Kansas**

Dear Secretary Williams:

On February 19, 2004, BNSF filed a Notice of Exemption seeking authority to abandon or discontinue service of a 2.88-mile line of railroad between railroad milepost 0.62 and railroad milepost 3.50 near South Hutchinson, Reno County, Kansas. The line traverses United States Postal Service Zip Codes 67501 and 67505. An Interim Trails Use Railbanking Agreement, dated March 23, 2005, was entered into between BNSF and the City of South Hutchinson, in lieu of consummation of abandonment.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter by date stamping the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to me in the enclosed self-addressed stamped envelope.

Ten (10) additional copies of this letter are enclosed for the Board's use and distribution.

Sincerely,

Sidney L. Strickland, Jr.

SLS/js

cc: Kansas Corporation Commission  
Kansas Department of Transportation  
Peter Rickershauser  
Jerome Johnson  
James Gallegos  
Richard Batie  
Donald Gottschalk (City of South Hutchinson, KS)  
Rail Services Update